

CHARTER AGREEMENT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
NOAA/USGS INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE FOR  
PROGRAM COORDINATION

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Date

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Date

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION - U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAM COORDINATION

This revised charter replaces the original committee charter signed on February 10, 1972, by Robert M. White, former Administrator of NOAA, and V. E. McKelvey, former Director of the U.S. Geological Survey.

It is in the national interest that related program responsibilities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) be closely coordinated and mutually supportive, and that the boundaries between those programs be clearly understood by both parties. Accordingly, there is hereby established a NOAA/USGS Interagency Committee for Program Coordination.

The Committee will have the authority to establish working groups to undertake studies of interagency issues and to make decisions within its areas of responsibilities. Disagreements which cannot be resolved by the Committee will be presented to the agency heads for resolution.

The Committee will be jointly chaired by the NOAA Deputy Administrator and the Associate Director, USGS. The Committee will meet at least once every quarter, but more often if necessary, to resolve specific problems.

The primary responsibility of the Committee will be to coordinate related programs within the full range of interface between the two agencies. These include, but are not necessarily restricted to, programs involving the following activities:

- Data and information management
- Marine geology and geophysics
- Hydrology
- Mapping, charting, and geodetic surveys
- Earth resource investigations from space

In the area of data and information management, the Committee will assure coordination between NOAA and USGS in matters pertaining to the management of environmental data and information for exchange purposes. Specific subjects for discussion will include:

- Description of operational data and information related ADP systems, both existing and under development.
- Coordination of modes of input and access to data and information systems.
- Development of compatible formats for data files.

NOAA and USGS have related responsibilities for marine programs on the Continental Shelf and in the deep ocean. These activities include oil-spill monitoring and coastal zone matters. Accordingly marine issues will include:

- Identification of active and proposed marine related programs within the missions and competence of the two agencies which should be undertaken jointly or be mutually supportive.
- Development of mechanisms to avoid unnecessary duplication, and to insure program integration, coordination, and exchange of plans and resulting data.
- Review of operational schedules, requirements, and plans pertaining to marine activities to facilitate coordination and optimum utilization of facilities and capabilities of both agencies.

NOAA and USGS responsibilities in hydrology and estuarine studies require joint planning and coordination with programs of other organizations. Areas of coordination will include:

- Identification of programs in hydrology and estuarine studies within the missions and competence of the two agencies which should be planned and/or undertaken jointly.
- -Inventory of active and proposed operational and research programs of the two agencies and develop mechanisms to avoid duplication, and to insure program integration, coordination, and exchange of plans and resulting data, including the issuance of joint reports when appropriate.
- -Develop a plan for coordinating NOAA/USGS programs in hydrology and estuarine studies with those of other Federal agencies.

NOAA and USGS responsibilities in mapping, charting, geodesy are closely related and require close coordination and interface with other organizations involved in those activities. The role of the Committee in these areas will include:

- Identification of programs within the missions and competence of the two agencies which should jointly be undertaken to meet recognized needs for information, research, and establishment of standards.
- Inventory present and proposed programs of the two agencies designed to meet these needs, and develop mechanisms to avoid duplication and insure optimum program integration and coordination with free exchange of plans and resulting data.
- Identify operational functions of the two agencies which should be collocated and/or jointly undertaken and develop mechanisms to accomplish such integrated operations.
- Develop mechanisms to improve the integration of NOAA/USGS programs with those of other Federal, State, and local government organizations, academic institutions, and industrial groups.

NOAA and USGS have common interests involving observation of the earth from space. The Committee will address the following issues:

- Examination of present and proposed space programs and determination of their ability to meet requirements of the two agencies.
- Conduct of such space related studies as it deems necessary or as assigned by the Committee Cochairman.
- Development of mechanisms to improve the integration of NOAA and USGS space related programs with those of organizations.